

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20

DRC-01 /086 W

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R 160846Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5253

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: THE LOPEZ PATRIARCH RETURNS

1. EUGENIO LOPEZ, SR., 74-YEAR OLD HEAD OF THE LOPEZ CLAN ENDED HIS TWO -YEAR SELF-IMPOSED EXILE IN SAN FRANCISCO AND RETURNED TO MANILA TWO WEEKS AGO. LOPEZ, ACCORDING TO RAMON ARENAS, FAMILY MEMBER AND FORMER MERALCO ASSISTANT TREASURER, IS EXPECTED TO DIE MOMENTARILY (CANCER OF THE PROSTRATE) AND ONLY CAME BACK TO THE PHILIPPINES TO ATTEMPT A FINAL NEGOTIATION WITH MARCOS FOR THE RELEASE OF HIS ELDEST SON, EUGENIO JR. EUGENIO, JR., "HENNY" HAS BEEN IN JAIL SINCE NOVEMBER OF 1972 FOR HIS ALLEGED PARTICIPATION IN A MARCOS ASSASSINATION PLOT.

2. DESPITE SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH MARCOS, THE ELDER LOPEZ SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING ONLY A JULY 7-10 "HOME VISITATION" FOR HIS SON. ACCORDING TO ARENAS, WHO ATTENDED A JULY 9 FAMILY FETE, THE AFP'S SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 3-DAY LEAVE WERE OVERWHELMING.

3. ALTHOUGH RUMORS IN MANILA CREDIT EUGENIO JR.'S CONTINUED INCARCERATION TO MRS. MARCOS' DESIRE FOR THE LUXURIOUS LOPEZ HOME IN ANTIPOLLO, AND THE ATTENDANT DELAY IN TRANSFERRING TITLE, ARENAS SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WAS MORE TO IT THAN THAT  
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AS THE FAMILY WAS WILLING TO SIGN OVER IMMEDIATELY "...WHATEVER THE MARCOS' WANTED". IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID THERE WAS NO EXPECTATION

THAT HENNY WOULD SOON BE RELEASED, ALTHOUGH THE FAMILY HOPES HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND HIS FATER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY ON JULY 20.

4. COMMENT: THE LONG-STANDING FEUD BETWEEN THE MARCOS' AND LOPEZ CLANS MAY BE REACHING A CRITICAL POINT. HAVING FORCED THE DIVESTURE OF MERALCO, THE MAJOR LOPEZ HOLDING, AND THE RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES OF DON EUGENIO, MARCOS IS FACED WITH A PROBLEM. HE MUST RECONCILE THE POSSIBLE RELEASE OF HENNY WITH THE DISPOSAL OF THE MUCH PUBLICIZED ASSASSINATION PLOT ISSUE AND INSURE THAT THE STILL POWERFUL LOPEZES ARE NEUTRALIZED. HE IS UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO AWARE THAT SERGING OSMENA, THE EXILED OLIGARCH FATHER OF ANOTHER INCARCERRATED ACCUSED CONSPIRATOR, SERGE OSMENA, IS WATCHING THE LOPEZ CASE VERY CLOSELY.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, POLITICAL PRISONERS, EXILES, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974MANILA08457  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740190-0124  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE LOPEZ PATRIARCH RETURNS  
**TAGS:** PINT, RP, (LOPEZ, EUGENIO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005